

about fourteen years ago, seven slaves escaped from Virginia to New York and lived safely in the State of New York. One of them, Peter John Lee, settled in a village in the State of Connecticut, near the borders of New York, married, and became a respectable citizen. He was intelligent, considered himself perfectly free, and bore a good character for industry, and became quite a favorite in the neighborhood. A family was growing up about him, and he was respected by all the humble circumstances could make him. Seven years passed away, and he had almost forgotten the misery of slavery. But the slaveholders were not disposed to lose their property so quietly. Being informed that he had settled in Connecticut, they sought him out, and he was obliged to return. They obtained a requisition from the Governor of Virginia to the Governor of New York, for the apprehension of the seven men, as fugitives from justice, charged with the crime of escaping from slavery. The requisition of the Governor of Virginia, and the description of the men in this infamous document was so indistinct that any seven colored men might have been arrested and taken to Virginia or indeed seventy men might have been taken to Virginia. Fortunately discovered and exposed the villainy of the document, however, was signed by the Governor of New York, and placed in the hands of some of our slaveholding officers, who were ordered to cover the matter. We have referred to, here, and he has been laid in wait for him to decry him in the State of New York, Connecticut being out of their jurisdiction. At length they hired a man to take him to New York, and he was so taken to a certain place. When he came, four officers arrested him, and he came into a vehicle, secretly gagged and handcuffed him, and drove off to N. Y. and he was taken to a certain place. When he was leaving his wife and family, he was left destitute, and on his arrival at Richmond was tried and condemned to be hung, and the three others charged with the same offense. These slaves are not so valuable as sheep, and they are not so easily sold, and the Governor, who pardoned them and handed them over to the tender mercies of the masters. This was supposed to be the end of the matter.

At length, however, and Peter John Lee and his comrades were only remembered among the causes of oppression we had endeavored to relieve. At length a statement appeared in the public papers







